

14.2 Effluents should be treated to acceptable levels and standards before discharging them into natural streams.

14.3 Minimum flow should be ensured in the perennial streams for maintaining ecology and social considerations.

14.4 Principle of 'polluter pays' should be followed in management of polluted water.

14.5 Necessary legislation is to be made for preservation of existing water bodies by preventing encroachment and deterioration of water quality."

The Ministry of Environment & Forests in implementing the National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) and the National Lake Conservation Plan (NLCP) to improve the water quality of rivers and lakes respectively of the country. The Water Quality Assessment Authority (WQAA) has also been constituted by the Ministry of Environment & Forests with a view to direct agencies to standardize water quality monitoring methods, ensure proper treatment of wastewater to restore the water quality of surface and ground waters, take up R&D activity related to water quality management and promote recycling and reuse of treated wastewater.

### **Contracts for maintenance of rivers to private consortia**

1481. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the maintenance contracts of many rivers in the country have been handed over to private consortia; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) State Governments have not informed about the handing over of the maintenance contracts of any of the rivers in the country to private consortia.

(b) Does not arise.